(vi) Government will provide funds to the tune of Rs. 27.07 crore for implementing Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

(vii) Budgetary support of Rs. 76.35 crore shall be extended to CIWTC for implementing the rehabilitation package.

(viii) Write off Government of India loan (Plan and non-plan) together with interest accrued thereon (amounting to Rs. 425.98 crore as on 31.3.2000).

(c) to (e) As per the decision of the Government, the revival scheme is to focused on river service activity so that the Corporation can become viable and the sale proceeds of assets of Rajabagan Dockyard are to be utilized for implementation of the revival package. The manpower of Rajabagan Dockyard is to be given the benefit of the Voluntary Retirement Scheme.

Decision for acquiring crude oil vessels by SCI

2317. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to^ state:

(a) whether the Shipping Corporation of India has decided to acquire four crude oil vessels;

(b) if so, whether Government have given clearance to buy two new Suezmas tankers;

(c) whether the SCI has placed the orders with Daewoo Shipyard in Korea;

(d) if so, the total orders issued for acquiring crude oil vessels; and

(e) by when, they are likely to be acquired?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) presently has a total of seven crude oil tankers on order.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The SCI has placed order with Daewoo Shipyard, Korea for construction and delivery of two crude oil tankers of about

1,40,000 DWT each at a price of US $48.7 million per vessel. These vessels will be delivered to the SCI by October, 2004 and January, 2005 respectively.

Maritime security

2318. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has participated in recently held International Maritime Organisation to discuss maritime security and counter-terrorism issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof, alongwith the decisions taken thereon;

(c) whether any changes were suggested in existing regulations in the safety at sea convention (SOLAR);

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Intersessional meeting of the Maritime Safety Committee working group on maritime security reviewed the nature and procedure under the existing instruments of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to prevent acts of terrorism and other unlawful acts against ships, passengers/crews on board ships, port personnel, ports and port facilities, with a view to ascertaining the need to update these instruments. Proposals on maritime security issues circulated by various countries including USA, France, Australia, Spain, Argentina etc. were discussed. The Working Group made various recommendations which are required to be deliberated further for a decision.

(c) and (d) The Working Group recommended modifications of the existing Convention on Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) to incorporate requirement for a ship security officer, port security plans, port vulnerability assessment and Automatic Identification System (AIS)